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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

8 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM:

J. F. LEHMAN

SUBJECT:

Clements/Trident

As you know we only just headed off the stupid attempt by Warner and Clements to arrange a compromise cut in Trident. Now here he is in an interview with Orr Kelly saying a slowdown might be acceptable if Congress presses. Ye gods!

WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS 6 AUGUST 1973 PAGE 2

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

New-Weapons Push

By Orr Kelly

Star-News Staff Writer

The Pentagon is vigorously pushing the development of a whole new family of strategic weapons not covered by the strategic arms limitation agreement signed last year by the United States and the Soviet Union. The Defense Department's intense interest in the development of a broad range of highly advanced cruise missiles was revealed in an interview by Deputy Defense Secretary William P. Clements Jr.

Cruise missiles are being developed to be launched from planes, surface ships, submarines or land bases, Clements said. They will have ranges of about 1,000 miles, will be able to fly at supersonic or subsonic speeds, and at low or high altitudes and will be highly maneuverable.

Strategic missiles now in the U.S. inventory fly a ballistic course, soaring high into space and then falling back to earth, following a path like that of an arrow shot into the air. The cruise missiles, in contrast, are like small airplanes and are capable of a great variety of flight patterns and ing a path like that of an arrow shot into the air. The cruise missiles, in contrast, are like small airplanes and are capable of a great variety of flight patterns and maneuvers.

PENTAGON plans for development of strategic cruise missiles—as contrasted to shorter range tactical missiles for use on ships—was first revealed about a year ago in a request to Congress following completion of the first round of the SALT negotiations. At that time, however, only the submarine-launched version of the new weapon was mentioned.

Many observers have considered the interest in cruise missiles primarily a "bargaining chip" to be negotiated away in future arms limitations talks with the Soviets.

But Clements gave no indication he thinks of the missiles as something to be bargained away.

"This technology is on the frontiers of tomorrow," Clements said. "This is where we are in front and we must not lose our advantage. The technological gap is in our favor."

ALTHOUGH the Russians have moved much more vigorously than the U.S. in the deploying small cruise missiles on their ships—largely as a shortcut to offset the advantage given the U.S. by its aircraft carriers—Clements said the devices under development by the United States are far advanced over anything the Russians have.

The enthusiasm with which Clements described future prospects for the new

weapon was somewhat surprising in view of two recent developments. On July 6, Clements himself stopped development of an Air Force version of the new missile. And last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted to cut out the \$15.2 million asked by the Navy for its version of the missile.

Clements insisted, however, that his decision was part of an effort to strengthen, rather than weaken, the cruise missile development program. And, although the

Clements insisted, however, that his decision was part of an effort to strengthen, rather than weaken, the cruise missile development program. And, although the chief management responsibility for development of the new missiles is apparently being placed on the Navy, Clements said the first cruise missiles probably would be derived in airplanes.

THE NEW missiles are so versatile, he said, that they could be fired from outside enemy defenses or carried in close to the target by a plane like the B-1 bomber now under development. Some Air Force officials recently suggested that the missiles could even be carried on military versions of big planes like the Boeing 747.

Clements seemed remarkably unconcerned about the Senate committee's rejection.

"I feel we have not done our job in articulating our programs. We have not done an adequate job of explaining in Congress what we have in mind," he said. "But I think they will be enthusiastic when they understand."

Similarly, he said, he is confident that the overall defense program will do well in Congress this year despite sharp setbacks not only in the Senate but also in the House, where the Pentagon has often found enough votes to overcome adverse action in the Senate.

"I THINK we have a reservoir of good will up there that exceeds what a lot of people think," Clements said.

But Clements also acknowledged that there is justification for some of the congressional complaints about Pentagon weapons programs.

"We're in transition," he said. "We need to take a hard look at these programs—some of them. Some programs need to be dropped or reoriented in different directions."

Clements strongly defended two of the most controversial big weapons programs—the B-1 bomber and the Trident submarine.

But he also indicated that, while he favors the present program of rapid development of the Trident, he might, if pressed by Congress,

be willing to slow up the program, either by delaying the first boat or by producing the first boat on schedule—in 1978—and testing it before going ahead with the remaining nine subs.

IN DEFENDING the U.S. weapons program, Clements also called attention to what he said was the vigorous pace of Soviet weapons development.

Recent tests, he said, have now convinced most American experts that the Soviets are well along in development of a true MIRV or multiple, independently targetable reentry vehicle system, for its new families of strategic missiles.

He is especially impressed, he said, by the evidence that both the individual warheads themselves and the technology are transferable from one size missile to another and even from submarine-launched to land-launched missiles.